



# San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

c/o Council of Fresno County Governments – 2035 Tulare St. #201-Fresno, CA 93721  
Phone: 559-233-4148 Ext. 200 Fax: 559-233-9645

**Chair**  
Mayor Bill Spriggs  
City of Merced

**Vice-Chair**  
Supervisor Allen  
Ishida  
Tulare County

**Council of  
Fresno County  
Governments**

**Kern Council of  
Governments**

**Kings County  
Association of  
Governments**

**Madera County  
Transportation  
Commission**

**Merced County  
Association of  
Governments**

**San Joaquin  
Council of  
Governments**

**Stanislaus Council  
Of Governments**

**Tulare County  
Association of  
Governments**

**Wednesday, December 15, 2010**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

Merced City Hall  
Sam Pipes Room  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, California 95340

*Toll Free Number: 1-800-325-1307*  
*Participant Code: 522436*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 7, 2010 Policy Council Meeting (*enclosure*)

## DISCUSSION ITEM

2. *Discussion with California Air Resources Board Member Ms. Dorene D'Adamo regarding Green House Gas Targets for the San Joaquin Valley* B. Spriggs

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. SJV Blueprint T. Webster
4. Sustainable Communities – Prop. 84 (*enclosure*) T. Webster
5. California Partnership for the (*enclosure*)  
San Joaquin Valley M. Dozier/  
B. Steck
6. High Speed Rail C. Bowen
7. Short Haul Rail T. Smalley
8. State Route 99 Bond Savings Proposal (*enclosure*) T. Boren
9. Interregional Goods Movement M. Sigala

## DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

10. Approve 2011 Legislative Platform (*enclosure*) D. Barth
11. VLAC D. Barth/  
C. Lehn
  - Valley Voice – Sacramento, February 2 & 3, 2011
  - Valley Voice – Washington D.C., September 14 & 15, 2011
12. SJV Regional Policy Council Administration (*enclosure*) M. Sigala
  - <http://www.sjvcogs.com/> -- Website
  - Winter 2010 Newsletter
  - 2011 Meeting Calendar

## OTHER ITEMS

13. Other
14. Public Presentation for Items Not on Agenda. This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes. Note: The general public may comment on listed agenda items as they are considered.

**Next Proposed Policy Council Meeting: March 25, 2011.**

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations**

The Merced City Hall offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the Merced City Hall at (209) 385-6834, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting.



# San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

c/o Merced County Association of Governments – 369 W. 18th St. – Merced, CA 95340  
Phone: 209-723-3153 – FAX 209-723-0322

## REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL

Item 1

### Executive Minutes

**Thursday, October 7, 2010**

**1:30 pm**

Double Tree Hotel  
1150 Ninth Street  
Grand Ballroom, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Modesto, California 95354

#### Members Attending:

Sid Criaghead, Mayor, City of Avenal, KCAG  
Judy Case, Supervisor, County of Fresno, Fresno COG  
Mike Nelson, Supervisor, County of Merced, MCAG  
Frank Bigelow, County of Madera, MCTC  
Bill O'Brien, Supervisor, County of Stanislaus, StanCOG  
Paul Boyer, Councilmember, City of Farmersville, TCAG  
Allen Ishida, Supervisor, County of Tulare, TCAG  
Amarpreet, Dhaliwal, Mayor, City of San Joaquin, Fresno COG  
Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, MCAG  
Jim Ridenour, Mayor, City of Modesto

List of Other Attending: Appendix A

### 1. Approval of Minutes

Bill Spriggs, Chair, opened the meeting – Introductions

B. June 25, 2010 Policy Council minutes approved by consensus.

### 2. Approval of Greenprint Planning Process

Ms. Barbara Steck, Fresno COG, updated the group about the valleywide Greenprint component of the Prop 84 grant application they were authorized to submit (enclosure provided). The grant application was submitted in time for the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Jesse Brown, MCAG, asked who would perform the work.

Ms. Steck informed the group it would most likely meet the following break down:

Mapping: UC Davis  
Publications: Consultant  
Public Outreach: Consultant

Paul Boyer, City of Farmersville, made a motion to accept the process as outlined by Ms. Steck and pursue it if awarded the grant.

Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin, seconded the motion and it passed.

**Chair**  
**Mayor Bill Spriggs**  
**City of Merced**

**Vice-Chair**  
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**Governments**

**3. Sustainable Communities – Prop 84 & HUD Application Update  
– INFORMATION – Tom Webster**

Ms. Steck informed the group that an application was submitted for \$2.5m for the SJV COGs. The Prop 84 application for the COGs will assist with local government agencies on their General Plans and Sustainable Community Strategies. It is anticipated that the cities will hear back from their HUD application later in October and the Prop 84 application sometime in November.

**4. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley – INFORMATION – Stacie Dabbs**

Ms. Dabbs, for Mike Dozier, reported on the progress between the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, the Policy Council, and the Directors in place of Mike Dozier. The Partnership's next meeting will take place December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Madera. She informed the group of the proposal to reorganize the Transportation and LUHA (Land Use, Housing and Ag) working groups. The new formation of the Land Use/Transportation Work Group still leaves the need for a strategy for the Housing and Ag portion of LUHA. Housing might likely form its own work group. Ag is currently being discussed in multiple work groups and could be a component of all the work groups. A further refined proposal will be conducted and submitted to the Partnership Executive Committee on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were no questions.

**5. Blueprint Update – INFORMATION – Barbara Steck**

Ms. Steck gave a brief update on the Blueprint noting Mr. Jim Harnish's update at the Fall Policy Conference that most of those in the room were able to hear. Ms. Steck noted that Mr. Harnish will continue to put together the final parts of his work and move into the implementation phase of the Blueprint.

**6. High Speed Rail Update – INFORMATION – C. Bowen**

Mr. Boren spoke on the issue as Carrie Bowen was not present and the directors had been updated on Tuesday. He noted they have been moving forward on the environmental work and will be prioritizing the segments for ARRA funding shortly. The criteria of prioritizing the segments are not yet clear as they are currently working on it. No other directors gave comment.

Mr. Paul Boyer noted Hanford's disinterest in the project and Mr. Boren acknowledged that they were aware.

**7. Short Haul Rail Update – INFORMATION – T. Smalley**

Supervisor Allen Ishida updated the group on the latest developments of Short Haul Rail in their region. He noted they have pulled the 30 mile segment south of Kern and that it may have been more expensive to rebuild. They have received calls from interested parties in rebuilding the section. He went on to note the benefits of short haul rail and the amount the County is spending per week. They are encouraged that Delano is adding an additional two miles for more cars. Current indications have shown that short line is supposed to be profitable, especially the Fresno to Strathmore section. They are entering into negotiations with Union Pacific on the 30 miles that have been pulled.

Supervisor Case asked if they have quantified this rail line, what the rail road owns outright, and what would be required to maintain the rail. She noted that it would be beneficial to know what needs to be purchased and what could be acquired through continuance of the rail lines.

Supervisor Ishida stated that it is reversionary if the lines are taken out. If the land owner does not respond in a certain amount of days they lose their right to it and a title search is currently underway on all the properties to check the status of the land. As long as the rails are in the land it stays in the right of way, but if the rails are removed the situation gets more complicated.

Supervisor Bigelow asked if it was in the group's interest to put in their scope to identify rail corridors or potential corridors. He pointed to the outcomes of Item 2 as including targeted acquisitions and that it stayed blank at that point. He asked if it was appropriate to include this in the scope so they could clearly identify these rail corridors and potential rail corridors.

Supervisor Ishida responded that there's a need to look at it. He also noted that most of the county's have bought all the CNG buses they need, and they really need to look at the air quality issues. Freight rail and goods movement is a great way to address some of those air quality issues. Mayor Bill Spriggs asked Ms. Steck to include the identification of short haul rail corridors, potential corridors, and implications of reversion in the Greenprint scope and she agreed. Mr. Robert Phipps noted that Kern is doing an extensive study of rail right of way and ranking of grade crossings in their county, and to the best of his knowledge it has been confined to Kern County.

## **8. VLAC Update – Information – Robert Phipps**

Mr. Phipps updated the group on VLAC's work. He noted in September HUD issued an additional \$1b and roughly \$30m was received by the valley for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The next trip to Sacramento is scheduled to be February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and asked for the members to get back to him on the dates. A tentative Fall trip to Washington D.C. is being set. The reauthorization bill may not be completed for some time. A September time frame is being set for the Washington D.C. trip and the members should respond to their COG directors. Senator Boxer stated that reauthorization is not on the horizon despite the reauthorization package proposal.

A package has been put together of 24 different economic development projects submitted and 15 had not been submitted for an appropriation project or grant funding. There was not much for them to do at the time as not all channels had been exhausted for funding. The Air Quality Empowerment Zone was introduced by Representatives McNerny, Costa, and Cardoza - HR 5296. Senator Boxer introduced SB 3373. Legislation was introduced to increase total economic development to \$1B but was increased to \$500m. This year's EDA budget is \$293m. The budget request for 2011 stood at \$286m. The House mark was \$317 and the Senate was \$280. The latest on the state budget has resulted in the state asking the federal government for \$5B to help fill the gap.

Supervisor Ishida noted the potential problem of reaching staff is the problem of them being potentially replaced. Mr. Phipps responded that the trip may potentially move to a focus of agencies and members instead of staff as there would not be as much a focus of advocacy in the fall as compared to framing and reintroducing ourselves to the agencies. Kern County will be taking the lead on Sacramento's trip and Fresno will be taking care of Washington D.C.

## **ITEM 11 WAS MOVED UP ON AGENDA**

### **11. State Route 99 Bond Savings Proposal – INFORMATION – T. Boren**

Mr. Boren opened the item with a general overview of the \$1B Prop B fund and the business plan the COGs put together for it. Cost savings of approximately \$154 million were identified and they worked with Caltrans to identify the appropriate projects to fund. Four projects were identified with one in the bull pen. Late breaking information came out that the CTC decided to pull the item from the November CTC agenda because they were unsure of the total savings, unsure of the use of Bond funds for right of way use, and they have informed the directors that they want the project to go in June.

Ms. Sharri Bender-Ehlert stated that they can use the \$150m to go for reprogramming purposes and will continue conversations and conference calls to discuss the issue. Mr. Vince Harris asked when it will go to the CTC and Ms. Bender-Ehlert stated they will shoot for January but it is not critical and they need to have more conversations with the directors. Mr. Dana Cowell asked if the two STIP amendments are still on the agenda and Ms. Bender-Ehlert responded that they were.

### **9. Update on Director's Discussions for Regional – DISCUSSION – T. Boren Organization in the Valley**

Mr. Boren opened the item by stressing that moving too fast on this issue has the potential of splitting the group up. He cited the benefits of advocacy, the Blueprint planning process, and SB 375 as points that have brought everyone closely together. The consultants, Mintier Harnish, are working to develop a white paper on some of the possibilities. He noted the concerns of some of the small COGs losing their voice while the large COGs are worried about being unable to act.

Supervisor Bigelow voiced his concerns about moving too fast as well. He noted the challenges at CSAC and that a weighted vote was a huge problem. He acknowledged that in certain areas they have been very successful. He recommended not forming a strong alliance.

Mayor Bill Spriggs responded that it was necessary to form a stronger alliance especially with the demise of CALCOG. Supervisor Bigelow felt that it was critical to craft our common grounds first before moving quickly. Councilmember Dhaliwal noted that the supervisors point was well taken by the group and that we need to focus on the commonalities.

### **10. CARB GHG Emission Targets for the Valley – DISCUSSION – T. Boren**

Mr. Boren informed the group that on the week of the September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the California Air Resources Board did not take the valley's advice and set other place holder values and ignored the technical analysis of the MPOs throughout the valley. Given a 6% target reduction for 2035, they came back with 10%. He informed the group of the desire to convey their concerns with air district staff and their board voted 7-1-1 (7-yes, 1-no, 1-abstain). The representative from our air district did not represent the Board's vote and furthermore, this representative was not an elected official who is beholden to the public.

Supervisor Case recounted the history behind how the makeup of the board was created. The SJV had been originally structured to have elected representatives from each county. The environmental community lobbied hard to have a representative on the board and get an appointed position. Dr. Telles was appointed to the board. The CARB has representatives from the different larger districts, which includes one from the SJVAPCD. The representative from the SJV area did not really represent the voice of the valley and the board to which they were appointed. With the Governor appointing this position the group cannot change him and there is no public accountability.

A letter to the Governor from the Policy Council was drafted and circulated at meeting. A motion was made to have the chairman send the letter. It was seconded by Councilmember Boyer and passed. Supervisor Case asked that the letter be proofread further.

## **ITEM 11 WAS MOVED UP ON AGENDA**

### **12. CALCOG Reorganization – DISCUSSION – T. Boren**

Mr. Boren informed the group of the situation with CALCOG pulling out of advocacy. Citing the diverse nature of the state, it was very difficult for CALCOG to effectively advocate and faced many challenges. Instead, they will refocus on policy instead of advocacy which will free up dues for advocacy.

Mr. Ted Smalley asked to put together a plan to set up advocacy for a valleywide effort. Mayor Spriggs noted the pertinence of having a representative for the valley all the time and Mr. Boren noted that the directors will put it together.

### **13. Regional Energy Planning – DISCUSSION – F. Abousleman**

Mr. Absouleman was not available for the item and Mr. Boren took the lead on it. According to Mr. Absouleman, there is money available from DOE from a national level. The Policy Council could serve as a catalyst to put together a regional energy plan for the valley as a whole. The example of Charlotte and the surrounding region is the major example he cited.

Councilmember Boyer noted the need for partnership on this type of endeavor and utilizing the Clean Energy group to explore this with the Air District. Mr. Tom Jordan noted that the Air District and the Clean Energy organization applied on behalf of 37 places, that the valley is behind the state in terms of energy consumption. Supervisor Ishida saw that the enclosure noted land use and transportation planning and this group ought to step up and do something about it.

Councilmember Dhaliwal noted from a business perspective, his business has made changes to be green but has not seen a bottom line change. This may be a tough challenge to overcome without the right incentives. Jesse Brown asked for the approval to look into this more and Mayor Spriggs said it was fine.

### **14. Other Items**

Councilmember Boyer noted an item for the next meeting. As his city has gone over one of the thresholds for USDA rural guidelines, the local congressional representative has sought to work on this. Their ineligibility for USDA rural monies in this fiscal time makes things extremely challenging and the congressman would like to include the entire valley in the proposal. Mayor Spriggs said it was fine to include the valley in the proposal to be seen at the December Policy Council meeting.

Ms. Steck introduced Lee Ayers who was involved in the Greenprint portion introduced earlier in the meeting. Mr. Michael Sigala thanked Mr. Vince Harris for hosting the conference and congratulated him on have such a successful experience. Mr. Bruce Abanathie noted that an evaluation should be sent out to help the host plan for next year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Boren  
Chair, SJV Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee



Others Attending:

Marjie Kirn, MCAG  
Stacie Dabbs, CA Partnership  
Lori Flanders, MCAG  
Jesse Brown, MCAG  
Tom Jordan, SJVAPCD  
Jim Harnish, Mintier Harnish  
Ted Smalley, TCAG  
Wanda Ishida, TCAG  
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG  
Bill Higgins, League of California Cities  
Richard Lyon, CA Building Industry Association (CBIA)  
Ken Baxter, Caltrans  
Christine Cox-Kovacevich, Caltrans  
Dana Cowell, SJCOG  
Bruce Abanathie, KCAG  
Patricia Taylor, Madera CTC  
Andrew Chesley, SJCOG  
Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG  
Dan Hubbard, Parsons Brinkerhoff  
Carlos Yamzon, StanCOG  
Rosa Park, StanCOG  
Michael Sigala, SJV Coordinator/Sigala Inc  
Nathan Wahl, SJV Coordinator/Sigala Inc  
Tony Boren, Fresno COG

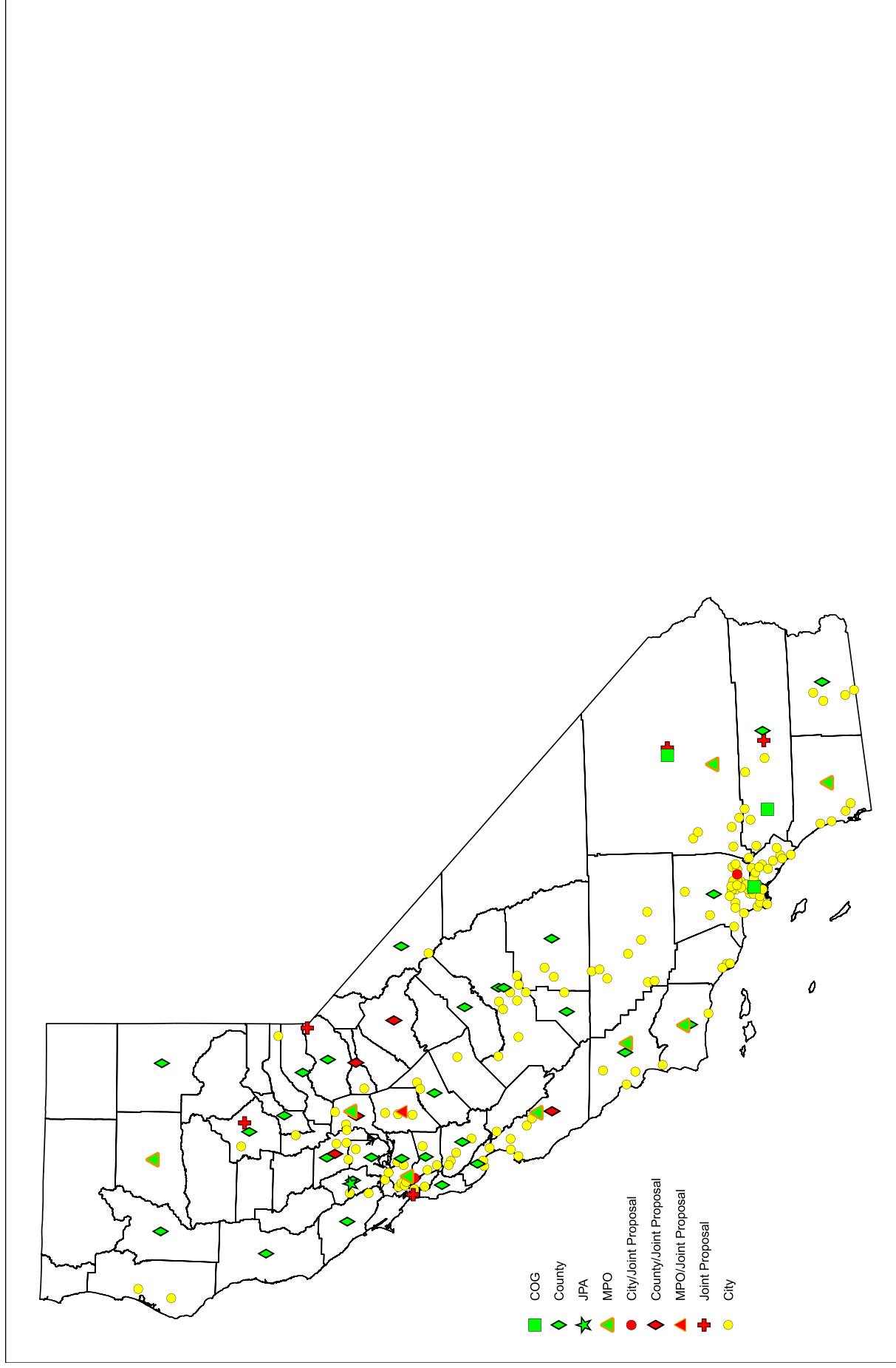
# 2010

Item 4

## Sustainable Communities Planning Grants

A Report to the Strategic Growth Council from the  
Planning Grants and Incentives Management Team  
At the Department of Conservation  
11/23/2010

## All applications (188)



### **Focus Area # 1: Local Sustainable Planning** - Eligible Applicants: Cities and Counties

Intent: Support the development and implementation of effective and/or innovative local plans that support the state's AB 32 GHG emission reduction targets and implement SB 375, while creating sustainable communities.

Examples of Eligible Proposals: (including, but not limited to)

- Specific Plans/Infill Plans/Zoning Ordinances
- Climate Action Plans
- Targeted General Plan Updates or Element
- Other implementation instruments and plans needed for successfully meeting AB 32 greenhouse gas emissions reduction and implement SB 375, while improving community-wide sustainability

Collaboration Requirement: A detailed explanation regarding how the proposal is consistent with its regions goals, including implementing SB 375. A letter from the regional entity concurring with the explanation may be one way to satisfy this collaboration requirement.

### **Focus Area # 2: Regional SB 375 Plus** - Eligible Applicants: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

Intent: Fund MPOs to collaborate with local governments to implement SB 375 and/or AB 32 at the city or county level, within the context of the three E's of sustainable communities: healthy environment and economy and equitable access to regional resources and amenities. The outcome of these efforts should support successful Sustainable Community Strategies that help meet the regional targets established by CARB.

Examples of Eligible Proposals: (including, but not limited to)

- Blueprint Plans
- Multi-jurisdictional corridor plans
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Plan
- Targeted General Plan Updates
- Specific Plans or other planning processes
- Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)
- Alternative Planning Strategy (APS)
- Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NPS)
- Regional Greenprint Plan

Collaboration Requirement: Submittal of a joint work plan between local governments and MPOs and letters of intent to participate in proposed activities from local government partners.

**Focus Area # 3: Regional Planning Activities with Multiple Partners** - Eligible Applicants: Cities, Counties, Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs) and Councils of Governments (COGs).

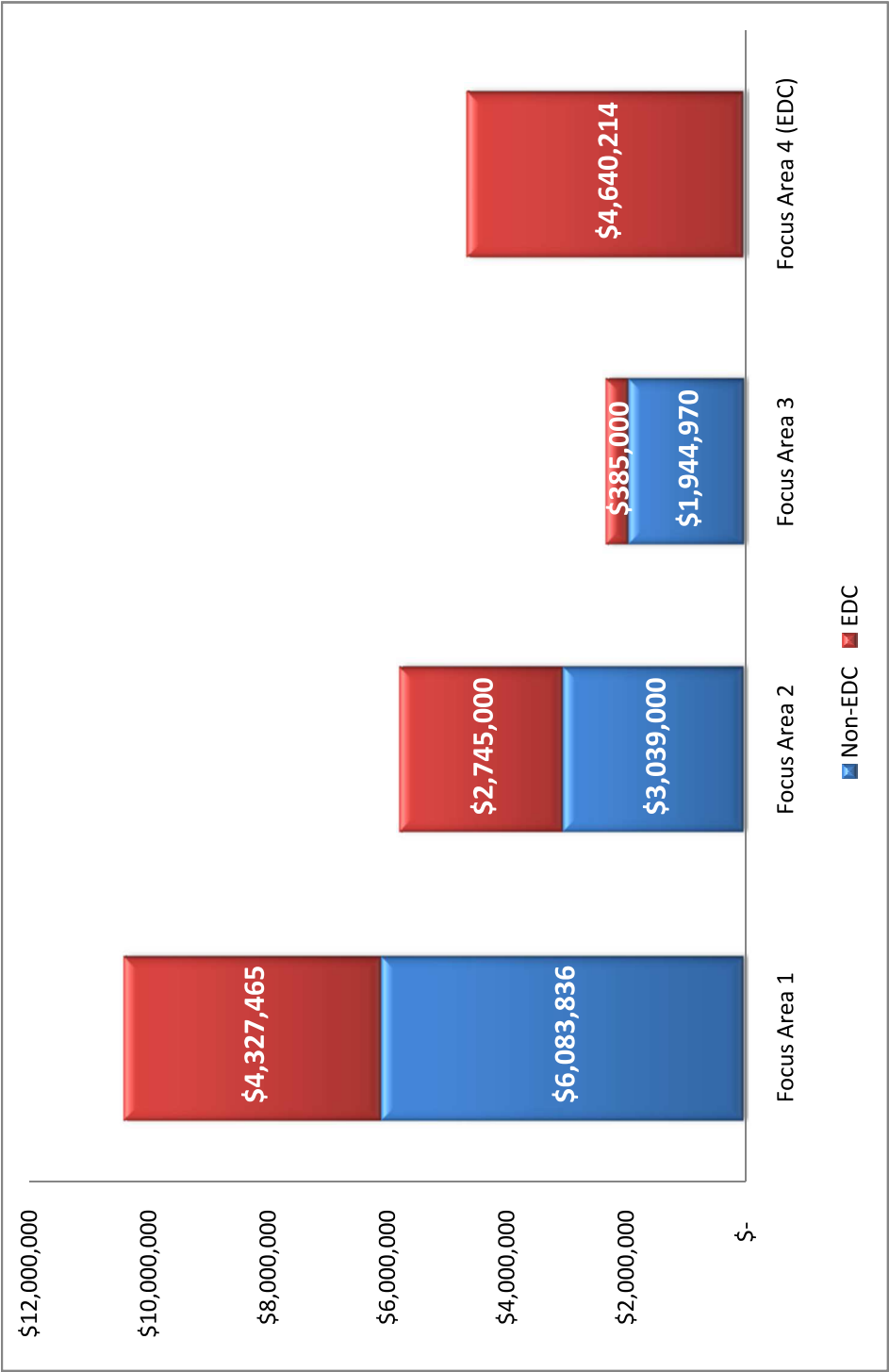
Intent: Support collaboration between cities and/or counties, JPAs, COGs or RTPAs to work with local governments to develop or implement regional plans that meet the intent of SB 732.

Proposal Examples: (including, but not limited to)

- County wide Climate Action Plan
- Regional cap and trade plan or offset program
- Rural Blueprint Plans or plans that voluntary implement SB 375.
- Interregional Plans

Collaboration Requirement: Submittal of a joint work plan by partners and letters of intent to participate in proposed activities from all partners.

# Funding Distribution Chart



- NOTE: 52% of funding is targeted to address economically disadvantaged community (EDC) needs.

## Recommendations

### **Focus Area 1 Awards** - 24 out of 100 reviewed

<b>Applicant Name (City/County)</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Focus Area - EDC</b>	<b>Amount Requested \$</b>	<b>Focus Area Total \$</b>
<b>Concord (City)</b>	Contra Costa	Preparation of Climate Action Plan & Natural Resources Conservation Plan	1	\$859,970	
<b>Richmond (City)</b>	Contra Costa	Form-Based Code for Richmond's Commercial Corridors	1 (EDC)	\$895,210	
<b>Arvin (City)</b>	Kern	City of Arvin Air Quality & Health Element & Comprehensive Green Zoning Code General Plan Update	1	\$150,000	
<b>Monterey Park (City)</b>	Los Angeles	A Healthy and Green Monterey Park	1	\$160,000	
<b>Santa Monica (City)</b>	Los Angeles	Memorial Park (neighborhood) Master Plan	1	\$550,000	
<b>Mendocino County</b>	Mendocino	Community Health Services, Mendocino county Health and Human Services agency	1 (EDC)	\$461,340	
<b>Merced (City)</b>	Merced	Bellevue Corridor Community Plan	1 (EDC)	\$251,345	
<b>Town of Mammoth Lakes (City)</b>	Mono	Zoning Code Update	1	\$318,245	
<b>Anaheim (City)</b>	Orange	The Canyon Specific Plan	1	\$334,850	
<b>Dana Point (City)</b>	Orange	City of Dana Point Doheny Village Plan	1	\$340,000	
<b>Calimesa (City)</b>	Riverside	City of Calimesa Sustainability Planning Targeted General Plan Update	1 (EDC)	\$352,360	
<b>Chino Hills (City)</b>	San Bernardino	Open Space Management Plan	1	\$250,000	
<b>Victorville (City)</b>	San Bernardino	Civic Center Community Sustainability Plan	1 (EDC)	\$356,210	
<b>San Diego (City)</b>	San Diego	Southeastern San Diego Community Plan Update	1 (EDC)	\$1,000,000	

## Recommendations

### **Focus Area 1 Awards - (cont.)**

<b>Applicant Name (City/County)</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Focus Area - EDC</b>	<b>Amount Requested \$</b>	<b>Focus Area Total \$</b>
<b>San Francisco, County and City of Stockton (City)</b>	San Francisco	Green Connections - Linking EDC's to Public Amenities and Open Space	1 (EDC)	\$633,000	
<b>San Luis Obispo (City)</b>	San Joaquin	City of Stockton Climate Action Plan	1	\$398,423	
<b>San Luis Obispo (County) Dept. of Planning and Building</b>	San Luis Obispo	General Plan Land Use and Circulation Elements Update	1	\$880,000	
<b>South San Francisco (City)</b>	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo County - Phase One Strategic Growth Implementation	1	\$399,000	
<b>Morgan Hill (City)</b>	San Mateo	Climate Action Plan & Pedestrian Master Plan	1	\$323,624	
<b>Capitola (City)</b>	Santa Clara	Solar Highways Pilot Project - Creating Solar Power in Excess Freeway Right of Way	1	\$380,000	
<b>Santa Cruz (County)</b>	Santa Cruz	Targeted General Plan Update	1	\$100,000	
<b>Yolo (Planning and Public Works Dept.) (County)</b>	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz County Sustainable Community & Transit Corridors Plan	1	\$500,000	
<b>Yuba (County)</b>	Yolo	Yolo County Sustainable Zoning Code and Development Standards	1	\$139,724	
	Yuba	Unified Development Code and Climate Action Plan	1 (EDC)	\$378,000	<b>\$10,411,301</b>



## Recommendations

### **Focus Area 2 Awards** - 8 out of 11 reviewed

Applicant Name (MPO)	County	Project Title	Focus Area - EDC	Amount Requested \$	Focus Area Total \$
Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Association of Bay Area Governments (MPO)	Alameda	One Bay Area: A Community Strategy for a Sustainable Region	2	\$1,000,000	
Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	El Dorado	Tahoe Basin Partnership for Sustainable Communities	2 (EDC)	\$995,000	
Monterey Bay Area, Association of (MPO)	Monterey	Joint Work Program for the Sustainable Communities Strategy	2	\$750,000	
Sacramento Area Council of Governments (MPO)	Sacramento	Integrating and Implementing the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Rural Urban Connections Strategy	2 (EDC)	\$750,000	
San Diego SANDAG (MPO)	San Diego	Planning Grant & Incentive Program; Regional SB 375 Plus Funding	2	\$750,000	
San Joaquin Council of Governments (8 MPOs)	San Joaquin	San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap Program	2 (EDC)	\$1,000,000	
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (MPO)	San Luis Obispo	SLOCOG 375+	2	\$239,000	
Shasta County RTPA (MPO)	Shasta	Shasta County Beta-SCS & Regional GIS/Climate Change Accountability Platform	2	\$300,000	<b>\$5,784,000</b>

## Recommendations

### **Focus Area 3 Awards** - 4 out of 18 reviewed

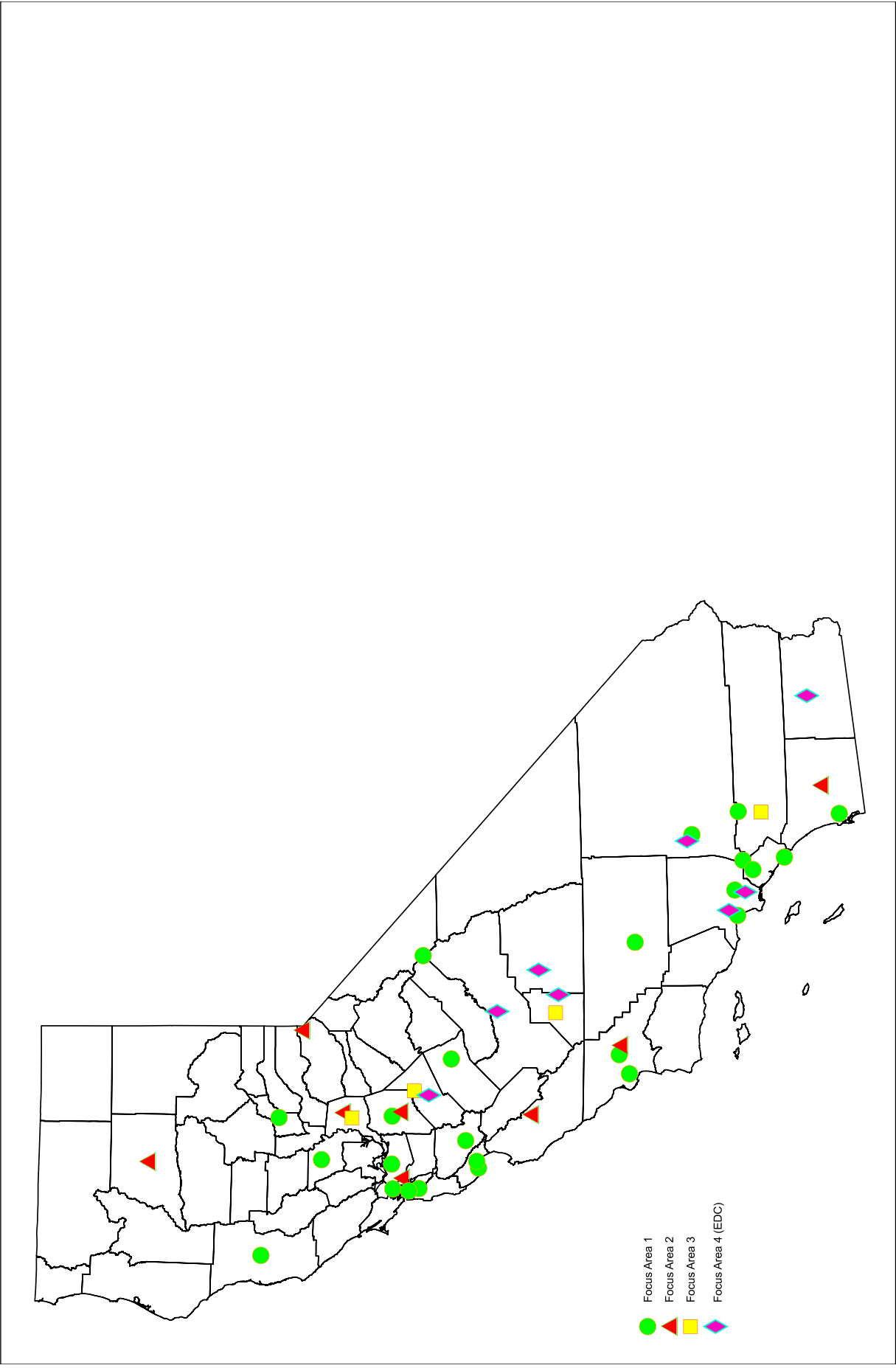
Applicant Name (City/County/MPO/JPA/COG/RTPA)	County	Project Title	Focus Area - EDC	Amount Requested \$	Focus Area Total \$
Kings County Association of Governments (COG)	Kings	Kings County County-Wide Climate Action Plan	3 (EDC)	\$385,000	
Western Riverside Council of Governments (COG)	Riverside	Western Riverside County Climate Action Plan	3	\$410,150	
		Folsom Blvd. Transit Rail Corridor Implementation Project: Infrastructure technical studies & GHG reduction modeling	3	\$998,820	
Sacramento (County)	Sacramento				
Riverbank (City)	Stanislaus	SR 108 Relinquishment and Reinvestment Plan	3	\$536,000	<b>\$2,329,970</b>

## Recommendations

### EDC Set-Aside Awards - 11 out of 24 reviewed

Applicant Name (City/County)	County	Project Title	Focus Area - EDC	Amount Requested \$	Focus Area Total \$
<b>Clovis (City)</b>	<b>Fresno</b>	<b>Shaw Avenue Corridor Plan</b>	<b>EDC</b>	<b>\$295,500</b>	
<b>Fresno (City)</b>	Fresno	Strategic Centers Solution for SB375 Implementation	EDC	\$992,214	
<b>Calipatria (City)</b>	Imperial	City of Calipatria Zoning Ordinance & General Plan Update	EDC	\$175,000	
<b>Corcoran (City)</b>	Kings	City of Corcoran General Plan Update	EDC	\$450,000	
<b>Los Angeles (City)</b>	Los Angeles	South Los Angeles Green Alleys Master Plan	EDC	\$271,000	
<b>South Gate (City)</b>	Los Angeles	Completion of a Comprehensive Form-Based Zoning Code	EDC	\$380,000	
<b>Fullerton (City)</b>	<b>Orange</b>	<b>City of Fullerton Downtown Core and Corridors Specific Plan (DCCSP)</b>	<b>EDC</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	
<b>Adelanto (City)</b>	San Bernardino	North Adelanto Plan: Establishing a New Paradigm for a Successful and Sustainable Desert Community	EDC	\$990,000	
<b>San Bernardino (City)</b>	<b>San Bernardino</b>	<b>The City of San Bernardino</b>	<b>EDC</b>	<b>\$495,000</b>	
<b>Stanislaus (County)</b>	Stanislaus	Stanislaus County's Regional Sustainability Toolbox (RST)	EDC	\$1,000,000	
<b>Farmersville (City)</b>	Tulare	Farmersville Comprehensive Infrastructure Master Plan	EDC	\$267,000	<b>\$6,315,714</b>

All Award Recommendations for 2010 Funding Cycle (44)





## MEMORANDUM

Investments in Sustainable Communities in the San Joaquin Valley  
12.08.10

### SMART VALLEY PLACES

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$4 million grant to the San Joaquin Valley to fund its collaborative initiative, Smart Valley Places. The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) is the grant administrator with fiscal agent Fresno State Foundation.

HUD announced nearly \$100 million in new grants under this program to support more livable and sustainable communities across the country. 45 regions nationwide received funds through this unprecedented initiative intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation. The San Joaquin Valley was one of two regions awarded funding in California.

Smart Valley Places will be driven by a compact of 14 Valley cities from throughout the eight-county region, in partnership with four regional nonprofit organizations, California State University, Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council. Building on the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint and its smart growth principles, Smart Valley Places is our region's roadmap to creating more transportation choices, equitable-affordable housing, economic competitiveness, and healthier, safe and walk-able neighborhoods, ultimately shaping future growth trends that will impact not only the health and prosperity of the region, but the entire state of California.

#### **Partnering cities (see *attached list of projects*):**

Stockton – San Joaquin County	Manteca – San Joaquin County
Lodi – San Joaquin County	Modesto – Stanislaus County
Turlock – Stanislaus County	Merced – Merced County
Madera – Madera County	Clovis – Fresno County
Fresno – Fresno County	Visalia – Tulare County
Tulare – Tulare County	Porterville – Tulare County
Hanford – Kings County	Delano – Kern County

#### **Partnering organizations (see *attached list of projects*):**

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley  
Office of Community and Economic Development, at Fresno State.  
Fresno State Foundation  
San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council  
CA Coalition for Rural Housing  
American Farmland Trust  
Central CA Regional Obesity Prevention Program  
Local Government Commission  
San Joaquin Valley Urban Planning and Environmental Resource Center (SUPER Center)

### **Governance - Smart Valley Places Executive Committee**

City Councils of participating cities authorize their City Managers to be their voting representatives on the Compact Executive Committee (CEC) of Smart Valley Places, with one vote for each partner city. The CEC will meet as often as necessary to provide policy guidance and administrative oversight for Smart Valley Places network related contracts, agreements, grant applications and awards, resource allocations, performance evaluation of projects and programs, and any other network business or communications, and to review, evaluate, and direct the work of the Planners Steering Committee, but will meet no less than two times per calendar year.

The CEC held their initial meeting on Monday, November 15, 2010 at which time Rob Woolley, Interim City Manager for the City of Clovis was elected Chair of the CEC and Mike Dozier was asked to serve as Vice-Chair. Additional actions included the creation of a committee to develop a job description and recommendation regarding the hiring of a consulting firm/planner to staff the CEC, and the expansion of the CEC to include voting members from the Partnership, the Regional Policy Council, the SUPER Center, the Community Leadership Group and the California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation.

### **Planners Steering Committee**

The Planners Steering Committee of participating cities is formed by the appointment from each City Manager of the Planning Director and/or Assistant Planning Director from each participating city partner. The Planners Steering Committee will meet as frequently as it prescribes for itself – in order to monitor and encourage achievement of Smart Valley Places COMPACT goals for implementation of a regional plan for sustainable development, and to coordinate and prepare information for the Executive Committee related to Smart Valley Places network related contracts, agreements, grant applications and awards, resource allocations, performance evaluation of projects and programs, and any other network business or communications.

### **Initial Regional Lead and Fiscal Agents**

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and the CSU Fresno Foundation will act as the initial regional lead and fiscal agents for the Smart Valley Places Cities COMPACT – acting as an umbrella organization, grant applicant, and fiscal fiduciary under terms defined in a contractual agreement approved by the Executive Committee for Smart Valley Places grant proposals and other funding applications and resources until Smart Valley Places either has the legal status be its own applicant and fiduciary or chooses other agents.

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## **LIVING CITIES – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BOOT CAMP**

As a recipient of the HUD grant, Living Cities, a consortium of the world's largest foundations and financial institutions, has invited a team from Smart Valley Places to participate in an invitation-only peer learning opportunity that is intended to help the region make the most of the \$4 million Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Award. The Living Cities Sustainable Communities Boot Camp will take place January 10-12, 2011 at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

This opportunity is being provided at no cost to a team of six individuals from the Smart Valley Places consortium, to be comprised of the following representatives:

SVP COMPACT City Manager –*Rob Woolley*  
SVP COMPACT City Planner/SUPER Center – *Keith Bergthold*  
California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley/OCED – *Stacie Dabbs*  
Community Leadership Group – *Felicity Lyons*

## **STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL – PLANNING GRANTS**

The Strategic Growth Council recently announced their 2010 funding award recommendations. 10 of the 44 recommended applications for award are in the San Joaquin Valley totaling \$5,429,982 for the region. Total funding for this cycle statewide was \$23,050,485.

### **Background:**

The primary goal of this grant program was to develop and implement plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve the following objectives:

Improve air and water quality	Protect natural resources and ag lands
Promote public health	Reduce auto usage and fuel consumption
Promote equity	Improve infrastructure systems
Increase housing affordability	Promote water conservation
Increase infill and compact development	Promote energy efficiency and conservation
Revitalize urban and community centers	Strengthen the economy

### **Funding:**

\$23 million was available for award through this first round of funding. 188 applications were submitted statewide for a total request of \$94 million in projects. Only 44 of the applications were recommended for funding totaling \$23,050,485 for this funding cycle.

At least 20% of each round of funding needed to be prioritized for projects that target economically disadvantaged communities (EDC). Projects seeking EDC prioritized funds needed to show that the planning to be funded would be primarily within the geographic boundaries of the EDC. Applicants for an EDC set-aside were also eligible to submit one additional non-EDC application.

Of the balance, the Council funded proposals that fall within Focus Areas 1, 2 and 3. The goal was to focus a minimum of 25% of funds in Focus Area 1, a minimum of 25% in Focus Area 2, and a minimum of 10% in Focus Area 3, with the remaining 20% for the remaining competitive projects from among all focus areas.

Awards were limited to a maximum of \$1 million and a minimum of \$100,000 per proposal. The Council was open to consider higher grant awards for a joint proposal that is cooperative, scale-appropriate, and reflects the interdependence of environmental, economic community health, and other requirements.

### **Focus Area 1: Local Sustainable Planning**

*Eligible Applicants:* Cities and Counties

*Intent:* Support the development and implementation of effective and/or innovative local plans that support the state's AB 32 GHG emission reduction targets and implement SB 375, while creating sustainable communities.

*Awards in the Valley:*

- City of Arvin (Kern County)  
\$150,000 – City of Arvin Air Quality and Health Element and Comprehensive Green Zoning Code General Plan Update
- City of Merced (Merced County)

\$251,345 – Bellevue Corridor Community Plan

- City of Stockton (San Joaquin County)  
\$398,423 – City of Stockton Climate Action Plan

## **Focus Area 2: Regional SB 375 Plus**

*Eligible Applicants:* Metropolitan Planning Organizations (COGs)

*Intent:* Fund MPOs/COGs to collaborate with local governments to implement SB 375 and or AB 32 at the city or county level, within the context of the three Es of sustainable communities: health environment and economy and equitable access to regional resources and amenities. The outcome of these efforts should support successful Sustainable Community Strategies that help meet the regional targets established by CARB.

*Awards in the Valley:*

- San Joaquin Council of Governments (8 MPOs)  
\$1,000,000 – San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap Program

## **Focus Area 3: Regional Planning Activities with Multiple Partners**

*Eligible Applicants:* Cities, Counties, Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs), and Councils of Governments (COGs)

*Intent:* Support collaboration between cities and/or counties, JPSS, COGs or RTPAs to work with local governments to develop or implement regional plans that meet the intent of SB 375.

*Awards in the Valley:*

- Kings County Association of Governments  
\$385,000 – Kings County Wide Climate Action Plan
- City of Riverbank (Stanislaus County)  
\$536,000 – SR 108 Relinquishment and Reinvestment Plan

## **EDC Set-Aside Awards**

*Awards in the Valley:*

- City of Fresno (Fresno County)  
\$992,214 – Strategic Centers Solution for SB 375 Implementation
- City of Corcoran (Kings County)  
\$450,000 – City of Corcoran General Plan Update
- Stanislaus County  
\$1,000,000 – Stanislaus County's Regional Sustainability Toolbox
- City of Farmersville (Tulare County)  
\$267,000 – Farmersville Comprehensive Infrastructure Master Plan



## SMART VALLEY PLACES - COMPACT CITIES PROJECTS

CITY	COUNTY	PROJECT
Stockton	San Joaquin	Climate Action Plan and Implementation
Manteca	San Joaquin	General Plan, Land Use, Conservation & Safety Element Update Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
Lodi	San Joaquin	Climate Action Plan and Implementation Development Code Update and Implementation Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan Implementation
Modesto	Stanislaus	General Plan Amendment – Land Use Element and Transportation Corridor Studies
Turlock	Stanislaus	General Plan Update and EIR
Merced	Merced	Climate Action Plan and Implementation
Madera	Madera	Updates to the City's Master Infrastructure Plans and Water Management Plan to Incorporate Water Reclamation Strategies
Clovis	Fresno	Comprehensive General Plan Update and EIR
Fresno	Fresno	I-PLACE3S GIS Planning & Impact Assessment Tools Launch Comprehensive General Plan and Development Code Update
Visalia	Tulare	Comprehensive General Plan Update Third Year Light Rail Corridor/Route Planning as Part of General Plan Community Design Element Community Outreach Newsletter Distribution and Community Workshops
Tulare	Tulare	Prepare Transit Orient Development (TOD) Study and Tulare General Plan Amendment
Porterville	Tulare	Circulation Element Fee Structure Economic Development Strategic Plan Design Standards and Specifications Upzoning Land for Higher Density Residential Development
Hanford	Kings	Downtown East Precise Plan (and Possible Form-Based Code) Hanford General Plan Update and EIR
Delano	Kern	Green Building Program Healthy Delano and Wellness Element to the City of Delano General Plan Sustainable Delano Element to the City of Delano General Plan Block H Plan

## SMART VALLEY PLACES - COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

ORGANIZATION	ROLE
California Coalition for Rural Housing	Program Coordinator for the Community Leadership Program for Smart Valley Places
Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program	Regional Coordinator for Leadership Development component
Local Government Commission	Program Coordinator for Regional Topical Workshops & Webinars
American Farmland Trust	Program Coordinator for Integrated Involvement component

## State Route 99 Bond Savings

Item 8

Total Currently Available for Programming: \$55,646,000

Total Projected Available for Programming by June 2011: \$131,646,000

Total Projected Balance Available June 2012: \$20,900,000

### **Priority Projects**

1. Kern – Taft Highway (widen from 6F to 8F, SR 119 to Wilson Road)
2. Tulare – Tulare to Goshen 6-lane North Segment (widen from 4F to 6F)
3. Stanislaus – 99/219 Kiernan Ave Interchange (reconstruct and aux lanes)
  - Merced – Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1A (widen from 4F to 6F and replace Buhach Interchange)
  - Kern – 99 (widen from 6F to 8F, SR 204 to Seventh Standard Road)

### **Guiding Principles (for funding)**

- Priority to existing projects
- Only realized savings can be programmed (realized savings = bid openings)
- Must be fully funded
- Must be deliverable (Award) by September 2012
- No ROW funds from bonds; new projects funded for construction only
- Programming requires a prioritized ranking of projects
- Must be included in the 99 Business Plan



## Housing

- Support legislation that would provide flexibility for rural housing trusts in the San Joaquin Valley to better participate in the Proposition 1C Local Housing Trust Fund program.
- Support legislation and administrative policies for a fair share allocation of Prop 1C housing funds, and state funded CDBG programming for valley projects and programs.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets

- The Valley MPOs reject the GHG emission targets adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Those targets were not based on the best information available from the regions. The Valley urges the CARB to work in concert with the Valley MPOs and with the best methodology available to re-evaluate the targets in 2012 or earlier.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote the inclusion of transportation funding in any proposal for a national economic stimulus package.
- Advocate for Department of Energy Conservation Block Grant Program funds to be utilized for regional energy planning purposes.
- Increase income caps in State and Federal grants so that qualified mid-income entrepreneurs may participate. Current guidelines provide financial aid for only those in the low to very low income brackets.

## PROCESS STREAMLINING

- Support legislation and/or administrative reforms to streamline the federal and state government's project delivery process and to eliminate unnecessary and/or duplicative requirements.
- Support integrating state and federal environmental impact studies without compromising environmental standards, to avoid project cost increases that occur due to lengthy processes.

## AIR QUALITY

- Support a new designation for the San Joaquin Valley as an Air Quality Enterprise/Empowerment Zone at the state and federal level.
- For any funds generated under a cap-and-trade program, support legislation that will provide adequate funding to disparately impacted regions such as the San Joaquin Valley for mitigating air quality or climate change impacts.

## WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND RELIABILITY FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

- Support the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Water Quality, Supply, and Reliability advocacy efforts. Their mission is to ensure a reliable, adequate quality water supply to sustain a high quality of life, and a world-class agricultural sector, while protecting and enhancing the environment.

## CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

- Support efforts to provide a continuing stream of funding the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

## OTHER

- Oppose unfunded federal and state mandates on local and regional governments.



*Contact Robert Phipps, Kern Council of Governments for more information:  
(661) 861-2191 • email: [rphipps@kerncog.org](mailto:rphipps@kerncog.org)*

*Rev. 12/2010*

The Legislative platform of the

# SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCIES

2 0 1 1

San Joaquin • Stanislaus  
Merced • Madera  
Fresno • Kings • Tulare • Kern

Item 10



## INTRODUCTION

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies include the Fresno Council of Governments, Kern Council of Governments, Kings County Association of Governments, Madera County Transportation Commission, Merced County Association of Governments, San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stanislaus Council of Governments, and Tulare County Association of Governments. In 2006, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies expanded their Memorandum of Understanding to form a Regional Policy Council, comprised of two elected officials from each of the eight Valley counties, to discuss and build consensus on issues of Valleywide importance.

The Regional Policy Council, in coordination with the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, has established a San Joaquin Valley Legislative Platform that reflects the Regional Policy Council's priorities in state and federal legislative matters. The Legislative Platform provides guidance to the eight Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and their lobbying partners when taking action on specific legislative proposals. The Platform is intended to provide a unified voice when communicating legislative issues of regional importance to the Valley's state and federal legislative delegation as well as to relevant state and federal agencies.

This brochure identifies the legislative priorities within different topic areas that are most important to the Regional Policy Council and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies for the upcoming legislative session.

### San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies 2011 Legislative Advocacy Priorities

#### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Protect and enhance current state and federal funding levels for transportation related programs.
- Continue to advocate as a region to advance common goals for improvements in state and federal legislation and policies.

## VALLEY VOICE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Continue to pursue federal and state support for the projects and legislative priorities identified through the Regional Policy Council's advocacy program called "Valley Voice".

#### TRANSPORTATION

##### Funding – Federal

- Work with Caltrans, California Association of Councils of Governments, National Association of Regional Councils, and other interests to develop state and national principles and priorities that will be favorable to the San Joaquin Valley for the next Federal Surface Transportation Program.

- Support Federal Surface Transportation Program authorizations and FY 2011 appropriation requests for Valley Voice projects and priorities.

##### Funding – State

- Support legislation to implement and maximize the San Joaquin Valley's regional share of bond funding provided by Proposition 1B (includes 99 Corridor improvements and local match programs), and Proposition 84 (includes the sustainable communities and climate change reduction grants).

- Oppose state project cost shifts or changes in responsibility to local transportation entities

- Ensure that federal transportation planning funds are available to regional agencies throughout the year and are not

made unavailable due to delays or changes in enacting the state budget.

- Oppose revisions to state transportation programming and funding reform legislation not consistent with SB 45 (1998).

##### Funding – Local

- Support legislation that lowers the threshold required to pass transportation initiatives to 55%.

- Continue to support legislation to authorize design/build and expand public/private partnerships and other innovative financing opportunities to fund transportation improvements.



## Highway 99

- Continue to protect and solicit funding for Highway 99, a major trade corridor in the San Joaquin Valley.

#### Goods Movement

- Support goods movement legislation that includes the entire San Joaquin Valley region as a recipient of any new port container fees collected at the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland in order to mitigate the burden imposed by the overland movement of cargo through the San Joaquin Valley as related to the ports.

- Support including the Central Valley Trade Corridor in legislation pertaining to goods movement funding and programs and that identifies all eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies as stakeholders.

- Support legislation that would implement the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Action Plan.

- Support rail preservation through additional funding and policy changes at the state and federal level in the next Federal Surface Transportation Program, the annual budget appropriations, and in state and federal regulations and guidelines.

- Preserve and enhance short-haul rail as a vital tool for goods movement and air quality improvement throughout the state.

#### High-Speed Rail

- Support federal and state funding for the development of the high-speed rail system in California that serves the entire San Joaquin Valley.

- Support annual appropriation of Proposition 1A funding through the state budget.

- Support Amtrak as a complimentary service to the high-speed rail system.

- Support the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission's efforts to extend commuter rail service from Merced to Sacramento and the Bay Area along the Altamont Corridor.

- Support the San Joaquin Valley as a test track for high-speed rail and support the location of a heavy maintenance facility in the San Joaquin Valley.



## LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

#### Senate Bill 375 (2008)

- Ensure SB 375 clean-up legislation advances the Valley's transportation and land use goals.

- Advocate for funding through Proposition 84 and other sources, to adequately assist Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and local governments in implementation of SB 375.

- Advocate for expansion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining for transportation projects that are consistent with a Sustainable Communities Strategy.

- Advocate for local agencies to be able to use the EIRs and EISs prepared for the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy when performing project-level CEQA analysis for transportation projects. This will reduce the analytical burden and cost for transportation projects and eliminate duplication of effort.

#### Sustainable Communities

- Support legislation and administrative policies for continued support from state Prop. 84, federal HUD Sustainable Communities and other funding sources for comprehensive revitalization strategies and projects that enhance the long term prosperity of urbanized valley cities and communities.

#### Blueprint Planning

- Support consistent and ongoing funding in the state budget for the development, implementation, and update of regional blueprints.

- Support consistency with regional blueprints as a major factor in allocating bond funds from state agencies and in developing legislation and state policies on climate change.











**PLANNING AGENCIES**

- About Us
- Agendas & Minutes

**POLICY COUNCIL**

- About Us
- Agendas & Minutes

**VALLEY VOICE**

- About Valley Voice
- Legislative Visits

**WORK PROGRAM**

- Blueprint
- Air Quality
- Coordinated Activities

**PUBLICATIONS (REPORTS)**

- Visioning Workshop
- SJV Blueprint Process
- 2010 Legislative Platform
- SJV Express Transit Study

## Welcome to the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Website



On behalf of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our website. I am proud to be the newly elected Chairman of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council, which includes two elected officials from each of the eight Valley counties.

The Policy Council provides a forum for our Valley to communicate easily and effectively on regional issues that impact us all, like transportation, air quality and advocacy efforts. Working regionally to identify action items that—when implemented by individual Regional Planning Agencies—result in a single vision for the entire San Joaquin Valley. Our

work program is ever evolving to keep pace with the needs of our Valley. You can see for yourself on this website the types of activities in which we engage under the strong partnership of our Planning Agency Directors and their dedicated staff.

**San Joaquin Valley at a Glance - View PowerPoint Presentation (3.4mb)**



[Contact Us](#) | [Links](#) | [MOU](#)

San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721 | (559) 266-6224





## San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Winter 2010  
Issue One



Happy Holidays and welcome to the first edition of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council newsletter. The Policy Council is busy working on several initiatives affecting the way we live in our magnificent San Joaquin Valley. We hope these newsletters will keep you informed and interested as we collectively move our valley forward.

-Bill Spriggs  
Mayor of Merced  
Chair of the Regional Policy Council

### San Joaquin Valley Awarded \$5 million for Sustainable Communities Smart Growth Planning!

The month of November 2010 was full of good news for the San Joaquin Valley. First, the larger cities collaborated on the Smart Valley Places application under HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative and were awarded \$4 million! This was not only the largest award in California, but it was one of only two made in the entire state. Second, the remaining smaller cities applied for funding under the Strategic Growth Council's (Prop 84) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program and were awarded \$1 million! Both grants will be used for Blueprint (and Green Print) implementation, climate action plans, and sustainable general plan and zoning code updates! Both of these efforts were strongly supported by the Regional Policy Council.

Thank you and congratulations to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and the eight county Regional Transportation Planning Agencies for all of your work!

### 2010 Fall Policy Conference A Success



This year's Fall Policy Conference was a huge success with approximately 300 attendees. The two-day event was held in Modesto on October 7-8 and was hosted by the Stanislaus Council of Governments. Attendees heard from many speakers covering topics ranging from transportation, housing, smart growth, financing and advocacy. Bill Fulton was the keynote speaker and delivered an important message to the Valley by encouraging us to adopt efficient and feasible land-use policies while respecting the Valley's uniqueness. The event also included an opening night dinner reception at the Gallo Center for the Arts, and a Blueprint Awards luncheon on day two for several outstanding Valley developments.

[Click here for Blueprint Awardees.](#)

Thank you Vince Harris, Executive Director of Stanislaus Council of Governments, for organizing this year's conference.  
[Click here for additional Conference photos.](#)

**Mark your calendars for next year's Conference  
October 12 thru 13, 2011, at Bass Lake in Madera County.**

The next meeting of the Regional Policy Council (RPC) will be held on December 15, 2010 at Merced City Hall.

[Click here for meeting agenda packet](#)

#### About the RPC

The Regional Policy Council was established to discuss and build regional consensus on issues of Valley importance for the eight county region of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties. The Council consists of two elected officials and one alternate, appointed from each of the regional planning agencies' policy boards. The Council works on valleywide issues to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Visit our web site at  
[www.sjvcogs.org](http://www.sjvcogs.org).

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



Dorene D'Adamo

California Air Resources Board Member Dorene D'Adamo is scheduled to attend the December 15 Regional Policy Council meeting in Merced to discuss recently adopted green house gas emission targets for the Valley and other air quality topics.

*Did you know that the San Joaquin Valley is projected to have a population of 9.5 million residents by 2050? This is 2 million more than the San Francisco Bay Area's current population of 7.5 million!*



### Valley Voice Contingent to be in Sacramento, February 2011

The Regional Policy Council and Executive Directors from the eight county Regional Transportation Planning Agencies are headed to Sacramento for two days of legislative advocacy on February 2-3, 2011. This two-day event will include visits with many of California's top elected officials and Department Directors to collectively inform Sacramento decision makers about the needs of our region including more funding for transportation improvements for Highway 99, smart growth implementation, goods movement, short haul rail, air quality and green house gas reduction policies. Special thanks to the Valley Legislative Action Committee (VLAC) for organizing this year's events. The Valley Voice trip to Washington D.C. is scheduled for September of 2011.

For more information or to contact the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council please visit [www.sjvcogs.org](http://www.sjvcogs.org), call (559) 266-6222 or email [info@sigalaine.com](mailto:info@sigalaine.com).

# SJV RTPA / RPC

## 2011 Meeting Calendar

Item 12

JANUARY						
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### Notes

		=	Proposed Executive Director's Committee Meetings
		=	Optional Executive Director's Meeting dates
		=	Sacramento Valley Voice Advocacy
		=	Proposed Policy Council Meetings
		=	Proposed Fall Policy Conference
		=	Washington DC Valley Voice trip proposed for September -- Date unknown
		=	California Partnership Board Meetings